KEEPING THE RECORD STRAIGHT — by Edith Essig December 3, 1961
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DEATHWATCH IN THE WASTELAND

The year draws to a close on a grim note of warning from the dictatorial purveyors of packaged thinking. Bleaker than the icy weather that sifts across the Canadian border, plunging temperatures in northern and midwestern states to sub-zero, are chill winds of propaganda nicely calculated to whip up mass hysteria over the implied prospect of decimated humanity seeing the year out while cowering in sparsely-scattered dugout shelters in a wasteland of nuclear devastation.

So compelling is this all-pervading propaganda that as we cross the threshold of the month of December we are already living with, thinking in terms of, this dual deathwatch: a deathwatch on the dying year; a deathwatch on Christian civilization. Its degrading effect shows up in the coining of expressions that would ring strangely in the ears of our forefathers and Christian conscience is rapidly giving way to the "ethics of the shelter doorway". If packaged thinking holds sway little Gracie Smith from up the block, who has drawn up a chair to your hospitable kitchen table a dozen times on cookie-making day, is due for the shock of her young life when the terror strikes and you slam the door of your shelter dugout against her. You will never forget the look on her face. And Gracie will never forget yours, if she lives to remember.

The grisly potentialities are underscored in The Arizona Republic by columnist Robert C. Ruark who asks who gets the last can of beans, and whether the old principle of women and children first holds good if the last tin of bully beef is up for grabs? "One of the more shocking aspects of the grimness of our time," he says, "Is the sudden, quite calm discussion of whether a fugitive from fallout has a right to repel by force—to kill, if necessary, any person who tries to trespass on his shelter. This puts the whole issue in its right perspective—we are right back to the cave, with cannibalism just around the corner."

"WE MUST REPEL L.A. EVACUEES" headlined a special dispatch to the San Francisco Examiner on September 23rd, from Bakersfield. It ran: " Police Chief Horace V. Grayson has warned that refugees from Los Angeles after an atomic attack had better keep going into the Mojave Desert. 'Our greatest danger is not an A-bomb,' Grayson told the women's division of the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce last night. 'Our greatest danger is from people coming over the mountains. They must be stopped south of town.' Grayson made it quite clear that the men to head them off at the pass would be law enforcement officers. 'We have plenty of them and they are expendable,' he said. It was only a month ago that a Las Vegas, Nev., civil defense official urged the creation of a 5,000-man army to protect Nevada homes from Los Angeles refugees fleeing a possible nuclear attack. Keith Dwyer, Riverside's Civil Defense head, adopted the 'keep 'em out' policy, advocating that refugees from Los Angeles be shot down. Mayor Gene Winer of Riverside later repudiated Dwyer's remarks and Dwyer resigned."

While the hardened authorities of Bakersfield, California and Las Vegas, Nevada prepare to set up road-blocks against terrified refugees from the City of the Angels the Sunday newspaper supplement Parade of September 24th raises and answers the question of where the world leaders would hide if the worst should happen: Charles de Gaulle would probably sit out an attack in a deep dungeon under the historic Ile de la Cite in the heart of Paris; Mao Tse-tung in a series of mountain caverns ten to fifteen miles northwest of Peking; Konrad Adenauer in the onetime hideaway of Adolf Hitler in the Upper Bavarian mountains; King Gustav of Sweden in his Stockholm bomb shelter; Khrushchev in an underground refuge among the granite crags of the Caucasus. Parade's researcher, apparently lacking confidential information on what Queen Elizabeth and Prime Minister Macmillan plan to do when the terror sweeps upon their tight little island, opines that they will sprint for Buckingham Palace's lately-reinforced wine cellars; or, he adds, the royal family and chief ministers may take to the air in Vulcan or Victor bombers which would soar to 75,000 feet, and the government could even be transferred in hours to Canada to fight on from there.

President Kennedy is seen through the prophetic telescope fleeing to the great underground Pentagon in the hills of West Virginia, the precise location of which, Parade says, is secret. He and his family and chief aides will be whisked there in less than thirty minutes by helicopter to set up a government in miniature. No target date is set but the tone of inevitability and urgency, suggesting that it could be soon, fits the closing days of Kennedy's first year in office—a year that started with the bright promise of increased national prestige and notable achievements on the New Frontier—into the dark picture of a world shattered by nuclear fission. It was a tumultuous, riotous year, with the United States on the losing side of every issue: the Cuban invasion fiasco, the Tractors for Prisoners deal, mishandling of the Laos situation, the admission of Outer Mongolia to the U.N., deepening of the Berlin crisis, turmoil in the Congo involving U.N. aggression against Katanga, the flooding of the U.S. mails with Soviet propaganda at taxpayers' expense, an endless queuing-up at the White House of representatives of foreign states seeking handouts, and skyrocketing deficit spending. As a letter to the editor of American Legion Magazine neatly expresses it: "The new Administration is trying to buy friends with wasted tax dollars all over the world. The New Frontier—out where the waste begins."

So, out on the Wasteland Frontier, the deathwatch is on: a deathwatch on the dying year 1961; a deathwatch, if not on a dying world, at least on the Christian

principles that--through crafty manipulation by the masterminds among Christ's enemies -- are giving way to the savage "ethics of the shelter doorway". These crafty manipulators have given us many a trial run of jungle savagery while the Christian world looked on, seemingly mesmerized into acquiescence: the bloody Soviet crushing of Hungary's bid for freedom in 1956; the horrible treatment of German women and children upon surrender of Berlin (American Legion Magazine for November, just off the press, tells the story in an article titled When the Russians Came to Berlin: "Sixteen years ago our GI's were ordered to halt 60 miles outside Berlin while the Red Army committed the most unspeakable outrages..."); the uprooting of a vast Arab population and seizure of their property for the founding of the misnamed state of Israel; the torture, mutilation and massacre of defenseless Arab men, women and children as in the lightning raid on the village of Kibya, Jordan, by a detachment of the Israeli army in October, 1953; the torture and killing of British Tommies and government officials, stationed in Palestine on authority of a League of Nations mandate, by the Haganah, Irgun Zvai Leumi and Stern Gang in a campaign of terrorism that lasted until, upon partition of the Holy Land, the British Lion, singed by incessant gunfire, dynamited, booby-trapped, and scarred from mane to tail, had had enough and retreated to the isles of home to lick his wounds.....

Those sheltered isles, so providentially isolated by the English Channel, that spelled "home" for the Christian through so much of recorded history and are seen as such through the mists of earlier legend; as noted by Sir Thomas Malory, writing in the 15th century in his Le Morte D'Arthur: "Then within a while came Galahad there as the white knight abode him by the hermitage, and every each saluted other courteously. Sir, said Galahad, by this shield been many marvels fallen. Sir, said the knight, it befell after the passion of our Lord Jesu Christ thirty-two year, that Joseph of Armathie, the gentle knight the which took down our Lord off the holy cross, at that time he departed from Jerusalem with a great party of his kindred with him...And so he came to the land of Britain....."

In the march of time and history the enemies of Christian civilization, bent upon control of the entire earth and determined to take it over in good, undevastated, running condition, preferably by terrorizing the nations into weak submission by the threat of nuclear destruction, have gained upon their victims through a long succession of wars and revolutions and the whittling away of the British Empire in favor of creating a flock of African states. The Detroit News-Tribune of April 26, 1903 cartooned the British Lion, considerably the worse for wear as indicated by knots in his tail, bandages and court-plaster patches, sitting on his tight little island in a litter of scraps of finished and unfinished business; "The Boer Question", "Venezuela Squabble", "Irish Land Question" crossed off. Holding in his paw a dispatch reading "Force of 200 annihilated in Somaliland", he gazes at the Russian Bear busy afar off with a Manchurian grab and moans, in the cartoon caption, "Is there no rest for the weary?" Digressing briefly: this tattered front page carries in the adjoining column the headline "COWBOY GREETING--Noisy Reception for Roosevelt at Edgemont, S.D.--Bucking Horses Prominent in Proceedings--President Pays Tribute to Pioneers of West..." (As T.R.'s train pulled in the cowboys let out a yell, the bands played and a salute was fired; only disappointment was that the prize bucking horse of the area would not perform. "Why the horse did not buck will be mooted in Edgemont for a long time to come.")

The drive for world-control has made its greatest strides through such herding operations as the League of Nations, United Nations, National Municipal League, NATO, SEATO, and now, by a great stroke of genius, the European Common Market and Britain's gamble on the loss of national sovereignty by joining it. Gone is Britain's proud isolation from the Continent; and down will come U.S. tariff barriers if President Kennedy has his way. The long-discussed Channel-bore plan, first proposed, says Time Magazine of November 24th, by one of Napoleon's engineers, is now controversial only in the question of whether the link should be a tunnel or a bridge. And an A.P. dispatch from London states that "The British are thinking about making a big switch--to driving on the right-hand side of the road. With Britain entering the European Common Market and if a tunnel or bridge spans the English Channel, it would be an advantage to have traffic move as it does on the continent. To replace buses with left-hand drive and doors on the right would cost $1.4 billion, by one estimate."

In view of such ambitious engineering ventures and the fact that new sky-scraping buildings are springing up all over the United States, financed by the custodians of the great international purse who call the shots of all the nations, is it likely that these grand-scale planners expect their costly projects to come to naught in the rubble of a nuclear holocaust? --the more-and-more-stately mansions, for instance, of World Federalist James.D Zellerbach and of San Francisco's uncrowned king Ben Swig, who supervises the civic entertainment of visiting notables, figuratively giving them the key to the city, is the perennial chairman for the sale of Israel bonds and other aid-to-Israel operations, and was on the National Council of Americans for Haganah, the army of Israel, beforementioned with the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Gang. Obviously, the planners feel they have the situation well in hand.

ALL QUIET ON THE NEW FRONTIER? Newspaper reporters' lips neatly buttoned up in accordance with the President's request for voluntary censorship? All military officers securely muzzled? Well, hardly! Gen. Edwin Walker has resigned from the Army to be free to speak his mind, and rightist groups want him to run for President in 1964. A rumble of indignation over U.S. shipment of jet planes to Tito and training of red Yugoslav pilots has become a roll of thunder across western states. Americans of the old breed are on the march carrying placards: "Muzzles for Dogs, Not for the Military" -- "Stop red aid!" -- "Get the U.S. out of the U.N.!"

President Kennedy and former President Eisenhower deplore "super-patriots" and right-wing "extremists". They call for public rejection of "crusades of suspicion."

Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, aged 70, the U.S.'s World War I ace of aces, fires a shot from the right: "American liberalism is driving us into slavery...the death of liberty here will be the death of liberty around the world and the beginning of complete Communist tyranny for centuries. But, thank God, conservatives are rising up across the land, finding new strength in their old convictions, making their voices heard. The battle is joined!"